

Message Text

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ACTION AID-05

INFO OCT-01 ARA-06 IO-10 ISO-00 SNM-02 DEAE-00 CIAE-00

INR-07 JUSE-00 NSAE-00 TRSE-00 NSC-05 OES-03 OMB-01

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FM AMEMBASSY BUENOS AIRES

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 0500

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: SNAR, AR

SUBJECT: SENATE APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEE VIEWS ON NARCOTICS
PROGRAMS

REF: A) STATE 64638

B) BUENOS AIRES A-287, DATED SEPT. 2, 1974 (NOTAL)

C) STATE 257400

D) BUENOS AIRES 8630

1. ALTHOUGH PARA 3 OF REF A ASKED FOR CERTAIN SUPPORTING JUSTIFICATION FOR THE FY-76 BUDGET SUBMISSIONS, THE COMMENTS BELOW BASICALLY APPLY TO THE FY-75/76 ARGENTINE COUNTRY PROGRAM (REF B), SINCE WASHINGTON HAS CONTINUED TO DEFER IMPLEMENTATION (REF C), DESPITE THIS EMBASSY'S NOV., 1974 ASSESSMENT (REF D), THAT THE GOA HAS THE WILL AND THE ABILITY TO CONDUCT AN EFFECTIVE NARCOTICS CAMPAIGN AND THAT IT WOULD APPROPRIATELY USE USG COMMODITIES IN SUCH AN EFFORT. UNTIL THE FY-75 PROGRAM IS IMPLEMENTED, WE CAN HARDLY DRAW A FY-76 PROGRAM MORE DETAILED THAN GIVEN IN REF B. HOWEVER, THE MATERIAL BELOW IN PARA 2A-C MAY BE USEFUL TO THE DEPARTMENT IN: A) ITS COMMENTS TO THE COMMITTEE; AND/OR B) DECIDING WHETHER TO MAINTAIN ITS CURRENT STANCE OF "DEFERRING" IMPLEMENTATION OF THE FY-75 CAP.

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2. THE FOLLOWING IS GEARED TO THE QUESTIONS RAISED IN REF A:

A. ALL COMMODITIES REQUESTED ARE EITHER FOR DIRECT NARCOTICS

ENFORCEMENT UNITS OR FOR THE EDUCATION AND REHABILITATION HOSPITAL. VEHICLES DESTINED FOR THE FEDERAL POLICE WOULD BE ASSIGNED SPECIFICALLY TO THE NARCOTICS SECTION. THOSE DESTINED FOR CUSTOMS WOULD GO TO THE NEW NARCOTICS SQUAD. THE TWO VEHICLES DESTINED FOR THE PROJECT OF COMMODITY INPUT INTO THE NATIONAL COMMITTEE ON NARCOTICS SUPPRESSION (CONATON) AND THE CENTER FOR SOCIAL RE-EDUCATION (CENARESO), WHOSE STAFF AND FUNCTIONS ARE SOMEWHAT CO-MINGLED, SHOULD BE ASSIGNED TO THE ADDICTS HOSPITAL (CENARESO).

B. THE VEHICLES FORM A LARGE ELEMENT IN COUNTRY PROGRAM BECAUSE, IN RELATION TO OTHER COMMODITIES, THEY ARE EXPENSIVE. FOR PRACTICAL PURPOSES, AS HAS BEEN EXPLAINED BEFORE, ALL VEHICLES FOR THE ARGENTINE CAP MUST BE LOCALLY PROCURED. THE CURRENT LOCAL COST OF A 4-DOOR SEDAN LOCALLY MADE AND PROCURED IS ROUGHLY THE EQUIVALENT OF US\$7,000. THIS INCLUDES A TAX FACTOR IN THE NEIGHBORHOOD OF PERHAPS 45 PERCENT WHICH A GOA ENTITY MUST, REPEAT MUST, PAY. IN THE CASE OF THOSE VEHICLES WHICH THE USG IS TO PURCHASE UNDER THE VARIOUS AGREEMENTS, THE TAXES WILL BE WAIVED. SINCE THE FEDERAL POLICE, CUSTOMS AND CENARESO BUDGETS ARE LIMITED, THESE ENTITIES SIMPLY CANNOT AFFORD THEM. IT IS NOT A QUESTION, IN OUR OPINION, OF THE GOA PROVIDING VEHICLES AND WE PROVIDE "OTHER COMMODITY" ELEMENTS. VEHICLES ARE THE MOST EXPENSIVE COMMODITY ITEM IN OUR PACKAGES. EITHER THE USG PROVIDES THE VEHICLES OR THE UNITS DO WITHOUT AND THE JOB DOESN'T GET DONE. IN THE CASE OF THE FEDERAL POLICE, THIS MEANS THAT IT WILL BE COMPLETELY UNABLE TO COPE WITH ITS NEW, NATIONWIDE, JURISDICTION. IN THE CASE OF THE EDUCATION PROGRAM (ALTHOUGH NOT AN ENFORCEMENT EFFORT) IT MEANS THAT THE ENFORCEMENT EFFORT BASICALLY WILL BE LIMITED TO THE CITY OF BUENOS AIRES. IN THE CASE OF THE CUSTOMS PROGRAM IT MEANS THAT THAT GROUP'S NEW NARCOTICS SQUAD WILL BE UNABLE TO UNDERTAKE THE TYPE OF IN-DEPTH INVESTIGATION WHICH PRODUCES MAJOR SEIZURES.

C. THIS EMBASSY HAS REPEATEDLY REVIEWED THE GOA COMMITMENT ON NARCOTICS AND HAS, AS THE DEPARTMENT IS AWARE, DETERMINED THAT SUCH A COMMITMENT DOES EXIST. A DRAFT REPORT, WRITTEN IN JANUARY, 1975 BY A FACT-FINDING MISSION FROM THE UNFDAC, STATES IN PART: "THE MISSION WAS IMPRESSED BY THE IMPORTANCE THE GOVERNMENT ATTACHES TO THE NARCOTICS PROBLEM AND ALSO BY THE DETERMINATION WITH WHICH THE ANTI-DRUG POLICY IS BEING APPLIED."

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THE FEDERAL POLICE ARE IN THE PROCESS OF UPGRADING THE CURRENT NARCOTICS SECTION TO A NARCOTICS DIVISION. WHEN COMPLETED AND FULLY STAFFED THIS WILL RAISE THE NUMBER OF OFFICERS FULLY TASKED WITH NARCOTICS WORK FROM THE CURRENT 50 (APPROXIMATELY) TO A LEVEL OF 100 (APPROXIMATELY).

D. NOT APPLICABLE.

E. ARGENTINA WAS ONE OF THE INITIAL CONTRIBUTORS TO THE UNFDAC WITH A CONTRIBUTION OF \$3,000, THEREFORE THIS POINT IS NOT APPLICABLE. IN ANY EVENT, THIS EMBASSY HAS JUST BEEN INFORMED THAT A NEW CONTRIBUTION OF \$10,000 TO THE

UNFDAC HAS BEEN APPROVED AND THAT THIS INFORMATION WAS TO
HAVE BEEN ANNOUNCED AT THE LAST CND MEETING.
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